

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5301

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGEN XX ET
SUBJECT: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR AMBASSADORS

REF: A) STATE 202267, B) STATE 206393

I GENERALLY CONCUR WITH GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AS STATED REFTEL
(B) WITH FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. REFTEL (A) NOTES THAT IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS
IS PART OF EVERY AMBASSADOR'S MISSION AND WILL NOT BE LIST-
ED UNLESS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE VIS-A-VIS A PARTICULAR COUNTRY.
I SUGGEST ETHIOPIA IS SUCH A COUNTRY GIVEN RECENT HISTORY,
AND THAT THIS OBJECTIVE SHOULD THEREFORE BE SPECIFICALLY
INCLUDED.

B. WHILE I HAVE NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE STATEMENT
THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE EPMG TO LESSEN ITS TIES WITH
USSR AND COMMUNIST STATES AND WITH THE COMPANION STATEMENT
FURTHER ON THAT WE ENCOURAGE DOUBTS OF ETHIOPIANS CONCERNING
WISDOM OF THEIR RECENT EMBRACE OF USSR, I QUESTION WHETHER
EITHER OF THESE IS A VERY PRACTICAL GOAL NOW FOR AN AMBASS-
ADOR HERE. ETHIOPIA FOR ITS OWN REASONS MAY WELL LOOSEN HER
TIES WITH THE EAST, BUT 1) SO LONG AS NATIONAL SECURITY AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY ARE ETHIOPIA'S OVERRIDING CONCERNS,
2) SO LONG AS ETHIOPIA BELIEVES SHE REQUIRES MILITARY ASSIS-
TANCE FROM OUTSIDE TO ASSURE BOTH OBJECTIVES, AND 3) SO LONG
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AS WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO PROVIDE THAT HELP, WE RISK BEING
SUSPECTED OF COLD WAR POLITICS SHOULD WE ATTEMPT TO PURSUE
THESE OBJECTIVES ON OUR OWN INITIATIVE, WITH THE RESULT THAT
WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
PROGRAMS MAY WELL BECOME SUSPECT AS HAVING BEEN MOTIVATED BY
CONSIDERATIONS HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH ETHIOPIAN WELFARE.
I THEREFORE SUGGEST BOTH OF THESE GOALS BE ELIMINATED IN

THEIR PRESENT FORM AND SOMETHING ALONG FOLLOWING LINES BE
SUBSTITUTED:

- ACCEPTING THAT IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE
EPMG TO WEAKEN ITS TIES WITH THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES, BE
ALERT TO SIGNS THAT ETHIOPIA MAY BE BECOMING LESS ENCHANTED
WITH HER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EAST AND BE READY TO RECOM-
MEND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT IN THOSE
AREAS WHERE BY POSITIVE ACTION WE CAN FURTHER SUCH DISEN-
CHANTMENT.

C. WHILE I LIKEWISE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH PART IV OF REFTEL
(B) ON HUMAN RIGHTS, I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT OUR OVERALL
GOALS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS WILL NOT BE WELL SERVED
HERE BY SIMPLE CONTINUED REFERENCE TO THE SUBJECT AS STATED
REFTEL (B). I CONTINUE TO THINK WE SHOULD BE SIMULTANEOUSLY
PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE AS APPROPRIATE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIO-
LATIONS IN A COUNTRY UNDERGOING A REVOLUTION AND FIGHTING
FOR EXISTENCE ARE NOT A ONE-SIDED MATTER AS WELL AS RECOG-
NIZE THAT EPMG IS ALREADY ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE SOICO/ECO-
NOMIC HUMAN RIGHTS FOR POORER ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY AS NOTED
LAST PARA REFTEL (B). SINCE THIS IS A TACTICAL MATTER RAT-
HER THAN A GOAL, HOWEVER, I DO NOT RECOMMEND CHANGES IN REF-
TEL (B). I DO THINK IT SHOULD BE PART OF AN AMBASSADOR'S
CONCEPT OF HOW TO HANDLE MOST EFFECTIVELY THE PROBLEM HERE.
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